Lifting of crude oil by SCI

43. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has signed an agreement with HPCL and BPCL to lift crude oil from foreign shores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the Shipping Corporation of India will be able to lift the crude oil from foreign shores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has entered into a contract with BPCL. The contract covers carrying of crude oil for BPCL and KRL from foreign shores and for coastal transportation of Bombay high crude. The contract is for the year 2002-03 and is for a period of 6 months with 2 extensions of 3 months each at BPCL's option. The freight and demurrage rates are market related and mutually agreed between SCI and BPCL. SCI has also decided to enter into a contract with HPCL for carrying of crude oil from foreign shores and for transportation of indigenous crude (RAVVA CRUDE). The contract will be for the year 2002-03 and will be for a period of 6 months with 2 extensions of 3 months each at HPCL's option. The freight and demurrage rate will be market related and as mutually agreed between SCI and HPCL.

(c) With its diversified tonnage, SCI can cater to the requirement of imports as well as coastal transportation requirements of all the Indian PSU refineries. With 5 vessels to be added in 2002 and 4 in early 2003, the deadweight of SCI's Tanker fleet shall be further enhanced.

VRS by SCI

44. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India has introduced a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the number of employees who have opted for VRS; and

(c) the amount to be paid by the Shipping Corporation of India as retirement benefits to retiring employees under VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) offered a VR Scheme to the employees first on 1.6.2001 and then on 1.3.2002.